



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLN. OF: LUDWIG et al.

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Technology Center 2100

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-entitled matter, Applicants hereby proffer U.S. Patent Office Form PTO-1449, including copies of the references listed therein. The claims in the present application are believed to be patentably distinguished over these references.

This information disclosure statement is being made pursuant to the duty of disclosure imposed by law and formulated in 37 CFR 1.56(A). No representation is made that the information thus disclosed in fact constitutes prior art or that it is the closest prior art, inasmuch as 37 CFR 1.56(A) relies on a materiality concept which depends on subjectivity.

Respectfully submitted,

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on July 9, 2001 at _____.

By: